

## The Virginia Citizen.

DEMOCRATIC WEEKLY.

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W. McDONALD LEE, EDITOR.

All communications or business letters should be addressed to the VIRGINIA CITIZEN, IRVINGTON, VA., to receive prompt attention.

Friday, March 25, 1904.

## IS SENATOR MARTIN A DEMOCRAT?

It is very unfortunate subjects and discussions should so lag in this State that our two Democratic dailies in Richmond, the essence of simon-pure, unadulterated Bourbon Democracy, and party mentors, can find nothing so interesting as somersaulting each other at intervals in "rounding up" Senator Martin. For of course the Senator is no Democrat; is, simply, like a Kentucky by-stander, a subject for stray bullets when the game is lagging. Quite peculiar that Virginians should countenance and continue to heap the highest honors upon one who is persona non grata to the only ring-streaked, striped and blue-spotted of the Democratic fold—the leaders of the flock, and like Jacob's, fairly chosen without a twirl of the demagogic wand. Senator Martin's silence is not golden when they fail to smoke him out. It is not treating his State and its Democratic oracles with proper courtesy when he fails to smoke. He should, of course, like some of the elect primary advocates, utter a squeal on various doings of the Legislature, and anon leave the gilded halls of Senatorial lethargy to run down to Richmond in behalf of self-interest, and at the least send a few henchmen down and issue his manifesto through the columns of the Richmond dailies. Lacking due appreciation of their wishes he must continue to be smoked. Our friend, the Baltimore Sun, first pointed the beneficent way to purge its State of Democracy's vile rule and clear the atmosphere with Republican prestige. What better or more virtuous policy could be pursued by our leading papers? They are wise in taking the cue. Neither Senator Gorman or Senator Martin is a Democrat, and they should be hoist high on a petard—which is fast doing its boomranging work of ancient repute.

Senator Martin is worthy of lambasting for keeping still on the stage; he should double-shuffle occasionally. That's the pace our contemporaries set and wish followed. When they oppose even so insignificant a thing as the Machen primary bill, he must trot along too—in the same class with primary-loving congressmen. But when they switch off he must switch too, especially when scenes change and the boulder is allowed in the Machen booth and the whiskey shops are permitted to open their mills. These are virtuous features that should make the Machen bill receive an ovation.

If the Junior Senator will take a layman's advice he will enter the confessional, quit frolicking in Washington and run down to Richmond occasionally for inspiration and dictation; then he will be received into good fellowship with the ilk of "holier than thou" politicians who denied one of the despised majority of Virginians that are deluded in the belief that they still belong to the Democratic party.

Since the above was in type we see that the esteemed Times-Dispatch has succeeded in smoking the Senator. And, in duty bound, the T-D offers the amende honorable. The other Richmond contemporary comes a little later to climb "down off the fence" and join the retractive music. The truth of the matter is, all jocosity aside, Senator Martin has never opposed the primary, nor has his friends as a class. But he is too busy to stop and snip at every little bit barking at his heels. Nor does he propose in that way to give the yelpers a chance to snatch it. Nor do we believe the people of Virginia, his master,—are going to order him to do so. Since nothing short of giving up his Washington job will satisfy the howlers—who would soon be at logger-heads themselves over the bone—he is wise in not trying to propitiate them. His silence is golden; and the people of Virginia are not losing sight of the fact that constant nagging comes from those who are less Democrats (vide the records) than he. When the agitators leave the stage, or are kicked off, Democratic harmony may be in sight. Experience has shown that no statement or act of Senator Martin will long satisfy these agitators. They watch eagerly for the next opening, and will create one if it does not soon present itself.

AN EVADED TAX.

On our first page will be found a list of what is paid on incomes by residents of the various counties in Virginia, according to the report of Auditor Marye. The income tax is probably evaded more largely than any other individual tax imposed by our State laws. Yet it is an item that the Democratic party and its spokesmen have loudly proclaimed should be taxed, either by National or State legislation. Until some few years ago not a dollar was returned on this tax from Lancaster county, but last year we paid the State \$30 on incomes. In other words, some few citizens of this county listed their incomes as being in excess of \$600

per annum, the aggregate being \$3,000. This is still far too small in our judgment. Northumberland did better, returning \$187.40, while Richmond county returned only \$4 and Westmoreland \$1. In Richmond county some citizens or citizens appraised his or their annual income at \$400 only in excess of \$600. In Westmoreland some lone citizen, probably, confessed to making or receiving \$700 for the year.

Even if the income tax is onerous or wrong—neither of which we agree to—no mental reservation can possibly absolve a citizen from making affidavit to an erroneous statement upon his assessment bill; nor is one less culpable if he permits the commissioner of the revenue to list him gratuitously when knowing that that officer is going to relieve him of taxation which the noncontested State law says he shall pay. If the law be onerous or wrong, only by its enforcement—not evasion—should it be made so unpopular as to lead to its repeal.

THE CITIZEN is not for the first time addressing its readers on this subject. Some years ago the income tax feature had been wholly ignored in this section, and we have from time to time called attention to the dereliction. By degrees our people are becoming convinced that to live up fully to the law this special tax cannot be ignored, and we hope they will continue to grow more careful in listing both their property and incomes. Because other counties default is no reason for our remissness. At the same time we shall be glad to see the time come when some practicable method will be found by which all sections of the Commonwealth can be brought to an equitable basis of assessment.

OUR prediction months ago that the coal operators would get even for any loss incurred by the great coal strike is being verified to a nicety. Prices were raised "out of sight" during the strike, and they have not come down much, nor is it likely they will ever resume their normal status. The coal interests are now as thoroughly in the grasp of a combine as is the oil output, and the dictum is that they do not expect to reduce prices even for the summer. Both coal and oil are easier mined today than ever before, yet prices of both are almost double what they were three or four years ago. We have never been altogether satisfied that governments should control these outputs, but if conditions continue going from bad to worse that may be the only solution.

It is "dog-eat-dog" down in German South Africa. The Germans have been fighting, butchering and ravishing the natives in that portion of Africa appropriated by Germany as her "zone." In retaliation the blacks the other day wiped out a German settlement, soldiers and all, and Kaiser Wilhelm is chewing his mustache and ordering more butchers to the scene. "Man's inhumanity to man" is not confined alone to uncivilized races.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT seems to be living up to his strenuous break-neck disregard of rights and constitutions pretty consistently. Nearly every week he evolves some new scheme for outraging the natural order of things. The latest is the dictum that all Union veterans 62 years of age shall be put on the pension roll. It means a stupendous grab of millions more annually for undeserved pensions.

SOMEONE reported that we had wiped the last vestige of belligerent Filipinos off the earth some weeks ago, but here come tidings of a battle in which a hundred Moros were butchered by our troops in our Asiatic possessions. When will our benevolent assimilation cease?

S. R. DONOHUE, late State Senator, newspaper man and general all-around good fellow, has been elected cashier of the Fairfax National Bank. Mr. Donohue is one of the most popular and influential men in his section.

OWING to our treatment of Colombia in the Panama rape the Colombian embassy has left Washington, we are told, in high dudgeon. It would be high dudgeon if Columbus were a little bit bigger.

## APPRECIATIVE READERS.

These are samples from a score or more letters received within the past month, for all which we are duly appreciative:

Enclosing \$1 subscription in advance the following letter accompanies it:

"EDITOR CITIZEN.—I desire to extend thanks to you for the energy displayed in sending out your 'extra' containing news of the great Baltimore fire. It was the first news that reached us of the terrible disaster. You deserve credit, which I have no doubt you will get. I certainly appreciate your efforts and feel that I am glad to send you more than I will get for any other one I send this year."

Lockies, Va.  
C. M. LAWSON.

Our little enterprise was so much commended, expressed by many letters and by word of mouth, that we feel no future effort would be too burdensome to accommodate such an appreciative clientele.

Another, among a batch of encouraging letters, is from a prominent resident of Warsaw, who, in remitting his subscription for the CITIZEN, says:

## DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

General Wood, the President's pet, has at last won the unmerited promotion. The Senate has been whipped in, and he was confirmed. The late Senator Hanna was the obstacle before.

Senator Martin has introduced a bill to appropriate \$25,000 to finish constructing a wall around James-town Island. The late Senator says "red tape" must be dropped on the island, will soon succumb to the wearing tide.

CONGRESSMEN AND THE EXPOSITION.

Mr. T. J. Wool owes it to the people of Virginia to give the names of those congressmen to the public who have threatened to waylay and sandbag the Jamestown appropriation bill in the Congressional districts of the State so as to conform to the clear purport of the law.

Come, who are these congressmen who have made this cowardly and contemptible threat against an enterprise in which the State has already voted its money and the success or failure of which means so much to the future of the State?

Who are these valorous gentlemen who threaten to turn the switch and derail the progress unless the General Assembly yields to their wishes and ignores the law?

Who are these Caesars who have fed upon public pay until they are grown so great that they undertake to dictate to the General Assembly? Who are these prynces parties who say they will fight the Jamestown appropriation bill in Congress if Newport News and Norfolk are put in separate districts?

These are legitimate questions. Speaking for the constituency that has done most to put this enterprise on its feet, the Virginia-Pilot respectfully asks that Mr. Wool state what members of the Virginia delegation have made this threat. We do not recall it in the recent political history of Virginia anything so impudent and so astounding. The redistricting of the State has no more to do with the Exposition than the man in the moon has to do with the Presidential election. They have absolutely no relation, commercially or politically. As we see the case this plan is precisely on the same moral plane as would be a threat to burn a man's house down if he did not go and stop another man from doing something that he not only had a perfect right to do, but that the law commanded him to do.

No man who would make such a threat or resort to such tactics is fit to be in Congress. Mr. Wool owes it to himself, to the Exposition Company and to the State of Virginia to give the name or names of the men or men in the case.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.*

LEGISLATIVE AFTERMATH.

A committee from the Virginia Legislature will meet a similar one from the Maryland Legislature at Annapolis March 28 to consider the question of interstate control of the Potomac river, oyster beds. The Virginia committee is composed of State Senators C. H. Walker, W. H. Sale and L. H. Machen, and Delegates Greene, Hunley, Stubbs, Lyell and Caton.

SOME BILLS PASSED.

To require boards of supervisors to make publication of the affairs of their county.

The legislature passed the Edmondson road law, which places the opening of all new roads and the appointment of a county road supervisor in the hands of the boards of supervisors of each county instead of with the Circuit Court. A right of appeal to the circuit court is granted to anybody who feels aggrieved. No more meritorious bill has been passed by this legislature.

GUSSIED WRONG.

If the Senate of Virginia does not follow the recommendation of its Committee on Finance and kill the bill, passed by the House of Delegates, to abolish the present jail penalty for selling liquor on Sunday, Governor Montague will have an opportunity to plant one of the best vetoes in the history of Virginia legislation.

That the Governor would veto such an emancipation of the liquor law of the State the Landmark has not the slightest doubt. What we are surprised at is the fact that the scheme has been able to secure the support of enough members of the Legislature to make it dangerous, in the face of the prevailing sentiment in the State against the liquor traffic. There has never been anything more foolish than the effort of liquor dealers who chafe under the existing effective State laws to have them repealed. The Landmark has repeatedly called attention to the tendency of the liquor interests to destroy itself by foolishly resisting public opinion. We agree with the Staunton Dispatch when it warns the liquor men that persistence in efforts to weaken the existing reasonable liquor-laws will throw the State ultimately into prohibition. Virginia is no humor to be exasperated along the line of "abolishing the jail penalty." Mark that!—*Norfolk Landmark.*

## WAR NEWS.

Little Doing—All Looking For Big Land Battle.

While entering Port Arthur March 16th, the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Skorré was sunk upon a placed mine and was blown up.

The United States navy has only 58 torpedo boats, while Japan has 104, Italy 166, Germany 140, Russia 229, England 265, and France 368.

RUSSIAN JOAN OF ARMS.

Feeling among the Russian peasantry at Kasan has been roused to an intense pitch of excitement by exciting appeals made to them by a simple village girl who has suddenly been seized by religious frenzy. She has been tramping from village to village imploring peasants to take up arms, and allow her to lead them against the Japanese.

The local authorities put her under arrest, but the villagers released her and mother with her at the head in a religious procession from village to village, carrying images and sacred banners.

The peasantry confound the Japanese with the Germans, and are under the impression that the war is being waged somewhere in European Russia and that the Germans may be expected to attack their villages any moment.

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HARVEY'S NECK.

Capt. J. M. Russell left for Norfolk Monday.

Miss Kate Whaley spent several days last week with her sister, Mrs. Oscar Kent, near Hopewell.

Capt. Geo. Hanks and son, J. E. Hanks, of Emmerton, are visiting the former's daughter, Mrs. W. B. Clark, and Mrs. Addison Christopher were the welcome guests of Polham Delano Saturday and Sunday last.

Misses Julia Eubank and Irene Clark were beautifully entertained the second Saturday and Sunday at the lovely new home of Capt. Robert Snow.

Mrs. J. M. Russell, who has been visiting relatives in Richmond county, returned home Tuesday, much to the pleasure of her many friends here.

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SUNSHINE.

## MISKIMON.

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FAIRFIELDS.

Miss Bertha Burgess spent Saturday and Sunday with Miss Pearl Haydon, of Blacksville.

Mrs. Brent, of Heathsville, is now at the home of her son, J. I. Brent, of Burgess Store.

Mrs. Edward Smith is visiting her son and daughter in Washington.

G. W. Edwards, who is a noted delegate to represent Heathsville, Circuit of the Methodist Protestant church in the annual conference, which will convene in Baltimore on April 6th. George Norton was the chosen alternate. The delegate was instructed to look for the return of the present pastor.

Miss Bennett, of Lillian, was recently a guest of Miss Lillian Blundon.

Prayer meeting has been held at the home of M. F. Burgess for several weeks on Wednesday night, for the special benefit of his son, Mrs. Martha Burgess. The meetings have been well attended and very much enjoyed.

An ovation supper will be held by the Ladies Aid Society of Fairfield church in the hall adjoining the church on Easter Monday, April 4th. Previous to the supper, an Easter programme will be rendered in the church, beginning at 7:30 p. m.

The Fairfield M. P. Sunday school was reorganized last Sunday and the following officers were elected: superintendent, J. H. Barber, assistant, J. H. C. Covington; secretary, Miss Bessie Smith; treasurer, J. R. Coleman. Vox.

HEATHSVILLE.

The farmers of this section have commenced their farm work, and are busily preparing for the crop. The parsonage property is being beautified by the addition of a new fence. R. A. Hall is doing the work.

Justice Eichelberger, known by some as "Justice John," has been kept busy all day issuing warrants and trying cases.

Our genial friend, C. C. Miller, who has been engaged in the state business in this neighborhood for some time, contemplates leaving for Texas in the near future.

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Our popular hotel man, J. E. Nels, purchased a fine horse one day last week.

On Saturday last the Board of Supervisors met. R. L. Burgess, road contractor from Fairfield district, was excused from further duty.

We have no phone service now at Heathsville. L. R. Betts, at great personal sacrifice and inconvenience, has served the public some twelve years. His compensation was a financial standpoint was nothing. It is now "up" to some other public spirited citizen of Heathsville to serve the people along this line for a year or so at least.

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